National Museum of American Art exhibit Secrets of the Dark Chamber at http://www.nmaa.si.edu/secrets/secretshtml/secrets.html

Online Computer Library Center Internet Resources at http://www.oclc.org:6990

Robotic Tele-Excavation Site allows viewers to interactively access a robotic arm at a remote site at http://www.usc.edu/dept/raiders/story/index.html

Seamless Website-Law and Legal Resources at http://seamless.com/

Smithsonian Institution Home page at http://www.si.edu/

University of California, Berkeley Museum Informatics Project at http://www.mip.berkeley.edu

University of Georgia at http://scarlett.libs.uga.edu/darchive/hargrett.html

University of Kansas World History Index at http://history.cc.ukans.edu/history/index.html

University of Southern California's WWW virtual Library Anthropology Pages at http://www.usc.edu/dept/v-lib/anthropology.html

University of Michigan School of Library and Information Studies at http://wils.umich.edu/UMDL

WebMuseum at http://sunsite.unc.edu/louvre is an award winning site.

World of the Vikings includes artifacts, history, runes, and other fascinating bits of Scandinavian and English history at http://www.demon.co.uk/history/index.html

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Diane Vogt-O'Connor is the Senior Archivist in the Museum Management Program of the National Park Service

Audrey Ambrosino and Mark Bograd

From the Industrial Revolution to the Information Superhighway
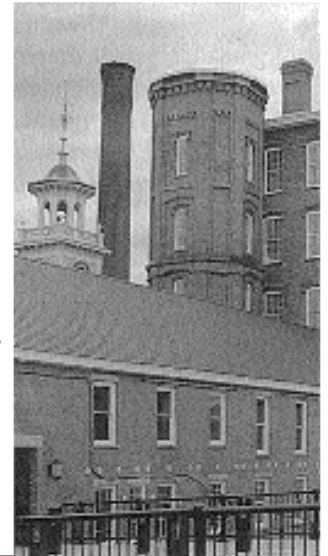## Lowell National Historical Park and the World Wide Web

Photo by Gretchen Sanders Joy, courtesy Lowell National Historical Park.

It is not surprising that the city that launched the Industrial Revolution in the 1820s is jumping aboard another revolution some 175 years later. Lowell, Massachusetts is widely recognized as the first successful industrial city in the United States. Heralded for its "golden experiment" in industrial capitalism and technology in the early-19th-century, Lowell was a showpiece for the newly emerging nation and the world. Today, Lowell National Historical Park, the National Park Service unit charged with preserving and interpreting the history of the American Industrial Revolution, is eagerly experimenting with some of the newest technology-the Internet and the World Wide Web-to help make that history more accessible.

At Lowell National Historical Park, current activities on the World Wide Web include posting a home page on the Lowell Folk Festival. The festival, the largest free folk festival in the nation, is sponsored by the park, the City of Lowell, the Regatta Festival Committee, and the National Council for Traditional Arts. It takes place each year on the last full weekend of July and features three days of traditional music, dance, crafts, and food. The Festival's home page (URL http://www.uml.edu/Lowell/FolkFestival) was developed in June 1995 by park volunteer Manuel Fernandes, using information and photos already being used for more traditional promotion.

The Lowell Folk Festival Website includes a rundown of festival events, schedules, directions, accommodations, and information about festival performers and craftspeople. Early indications are that it has been successful in helping to spread the word about the festival. As one electronic mail message from a "web surfer" put it, "We wouldn't

be going if it weren't for the Website. Someone forwarded the URL to my wife, she mailed it to me, and I forwarded it to my father in Maine who is coming down that weekend...." Future plans for Lowell Folk Festival site include the addition of both audio and video clips as well as presenting a festival retrospective (the 1996 festival will be Lowell's 10th). Other current World Wide Web efforts at the park include building on the Lowell National Historical Park section of the NPS home page, adding more in-depth information about park resources and visitor offerings.

Another potential park Web project involves a partnership with a group called the Concord Consortium and with the Charles River Museum of Industry in Waltham, Massachusetts. The Consortium, an innovative group of educators based in Concord, Massachusetts, has submitted a planning grant to the National Science Foundation to design a Virtual Museum of Invention and Technology, which would be based on resources available at the Park, the Charles River Museum, and other sites located in the United States and abroad.

The proposed Virtual Museum would be modeled in part after the Berkeley Museum of Paleontology Website which features the Berkeley Museum as the primary resource with a "virtual subway" providing connections to other thematically-linked museums (including museums in Russia and France). The Consortium's planning

grant would be followed by an NSF Informal Science Grant to produce the Virtual Museum. It would be designed not only to make information and resources available, but also to facilitate interactive education for learners of all ages. Potential exhibits may include weaving on a virtual loom, designing and building machines online, live video feeds of existing park interpretive programs, and opportunities to understand how water turbines and waterwheels work. The intention is to encourage visitor interaction with the exhibits, the park, and other electronic visitors.

Lowell National Historical Park represents a unique collection of cultural resources which are interpretively rich, exceptionally educational, and highly enjoyable for those who visit the park. The park themes and sites are both divers e and complex, lending themselves well to the ambitious and exciting virtual museum experience described above. The project would take advantage of current technology to present the industrial revolution story, would offer additional opportunities for interactive education, and ideally encourage a wider audience to visit and to learn about our nation's unique historical and cultural treasures.

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Winona Peterson

Gettysburg NMP and the Electronic Frontier

Among Gettysburg National Military Park's significant cultural resources are 90+ archival collections totaling over 500 linear feet of soldiers' diaries, letters, and photographs; Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association records; and reference copies of the records of the first park commissioners and historians. In December of 1994, an assessment of Gettysburg National Military Park's records was completed by the WASO Senior Archivist. Recommenda-

tions made in the assessment have caused the park to take a closer look at what has been done in the past, and to begin planning for the future of these significant holdings. For the purposes of this article, the Gettysburg archives are defined as the non-official, audio-visual, textural and electronic records acquired or created by the park for the purpose of reference, exhibitions or resource management.

The cultural resources branch of the Resources Management Division requires ongoing